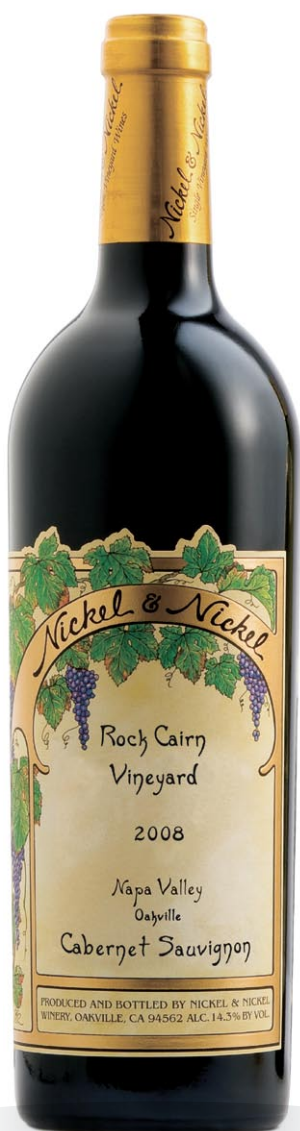




## 2008 ROCK CAIRN VINEYARD

Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville, Napa Valley



### VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

Planted in 1984, Rock Cairn Vineyard lies near the southern edge of the Oakville appellation, east of Highway 29 and north of the town of Yountville. The 30-acre vineyard is named for the “cairns,” or piles of rocks, that were formed long ago when Native Americans traversed the hills and would place a rock on the pile as an offering for safe passage. The site is comprised of deep, gravelly loam with a western exposure, and the vines produce very concentrated fruit late in the season. Nickel & Nickel selects grapes from nine acres of the vineyard.

### HARVEST NOTES

The 2008 growing season provided a variety of weather patterns that presented a few challenges, but ultimately resulted in some exciting wines. The year began with substantial rainfall, but was followed by a dry spell that actually put us behind normal precipitation levels. The longest frost season in decades followed, which lowered vineyard yields, but the remaining crop developed beautiful intensity. Very warm temperatures in mid-May gave way to a cool summer and warm September, which helped develop ripe flavors and mature tannins. This vineyard was harvested in mid-October, just as the days started to cool.

### SENSORY EVALUATION

The 2008 Rock Cairn Cabernet Sauvignon continues to display the black cherry flavors with briary and black tea notes that have always defined the distinctive character of this vineyard. The toasty French oak adds spice, while the firm, yet supple, tannins of the vintage give depth and richness. This wine can be enjoyed now but will continue to evolve with cellaring into a classic Bordeaux-style wine.

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### APPELLATION

Oakville, Napa Valley

### VARIETAL

100% Cabernet Sauvignon

### AGING

French oak barrels  
(51% new, 49% once-used)

### RELEASE DATE

September 2011

### HARVEST DATES

October 13 - 15, 2008

### SKIN CONTACT

10 days

### TIME

18 months

### FIRST VINTAGE

1997

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